

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1760

NODIS

FROM AMBASSADOR SPIERS FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, MARR
SUBJECT: PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT URGING
DECISION ON DCA

1. AT FOREIGN MINISTRY OKCUN'S REQUEST I MET WITH HIM
LATER AFTERNOON MARCH 8. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE HAD
BEEN ASKED BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO CONVEY THROUGH ME
AN ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE SECRETARY.
THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE "ORAL" MESSAGE SUBSEQUENTLY
PROVIDED BY THE MINISTER:

BEGIN TEXT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE
SENT A LETTER TO YOU TELLING YOU THAT THERE IS A GOOD
CHANCE FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE DCA AND THE LIFTING OF THE
EMBARGO IN GOOD TIME, PROVIDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
ASSERTS HIS WISH TO THAT EFFECT. BUT IN CASE OF A HANDS-OFF
POSITION BY THE PRESIDENT, POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT
DIRECTION WOULD BE UNLIKELY, ACCORDING TO THESE REPRESENTATIVES.

IN SPITE OF THAT, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS NOT YET
TAKEN THE REQUIRED DECISION TO SUPPORT DCA. THIS SITUATION
COUPLED WITH THE RECURRENT DELAYS IN THE HEARINGS RAISES
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SERIOUS DOUBTS IN OUR MINDS AS TO THE INTENTIONS OF THE
U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

WE CANNOT BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE DCA THAN
THE U.S. IF THE U.S. CONSIDERS IT NEGLIGIBLE WITHIN
THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY OF THE U.S., THERE
IS NOTHING THAT WE COULD OR SHOULD DO ABOUT IT. WE DO NOT,
THEREFORE, INTEND TO LOBBY IN THE U.S. PLEADING FOR THE PASSAGE

OF THE DCA AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, INSPITE OF THE INTENSIFIED GREEK LOBBYING AGAINST THEM.

WE ARE, HOWEVER, VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE GREEKS, WITH RESTORING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE, AND WITH OBTAINING GOOD RESULTS IN MONTREUX SO AS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. BUT THE U.S. ATTITUDE MAY OBSTRUCT ALL THESE.

BECAUSE, IF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE DECIDED TO ADOPT A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE IN CONNECTION WITH MY MEETING WITH MR. CARAMANLIS, BEFORE MAKING ANY MOVES TO FACILITATE THE PASSAGE OF THE DCA AND THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, THE GREEKS MIGHT FEEL INCLINED TO SEE TO IT THAT A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE DOES NOT EMERGE FROM THAT MEETING, NO MATTER HOW CONSTRUCTIVE THE TURKISH SIDE MAY BE. FOR, IT IS OBVIOUS, THAT THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO PREVENT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND THE PASSAGE OF THE DCA.

SO, IN EFFECT, THE U.S. ATTITUDE WOULD RESULT IN GREEK INTRANSIGENCE.

IN THIS CASE, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL BE UNAVOIDABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POSSIBLE FAILURE OF THE MONTREUX MEETING.

MR. AVEROFF'S LONG CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S.A., FOLLOWED BY MR. MICHAELIDES' CAMPAIGNRN PRECEEDING
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THE MONTREUX MEETING AND CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, COUPLED WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS'S ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CANNOT ALL BE COINCIDENCE.

MR. CARAMANLIS WENT SO FAR AS TO ASK ME TO CANCEL CERTAIN INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, THREATENING THAT THEY WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE MONTREUX MEETING, AND I AGREED. YET THE GREEKS HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST TURKEY WHILE WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING SILENT EXCEPT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE REMARKS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS ALSO IN THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. THAT THE MONTREUX TALKS BE A SUCCESS AND THAT THE DCA RECEIVE THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS. CONSEQUENTLY WE HOPE THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT AN ATTITUDE WHICH SHALL HELP THE SATISFACTORY OUTCOME OF THE UORTHCOMING TALKS BY URGENTLY ANNOUNCING ITS POLICY DECISION WITH REGARD TO DCA. END TEXT.

2. AFTER READING THE MESSAGE OKCUN ADDED THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL COMMENTS:

WE NOW CONFRONT A GORDIAN KNOT. THE TURKS WANT TO UNTIE THAT KNOT THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.
THE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP, THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

AND U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS HAVE BECOME SO INTERMINGLED
THAT THEY FORM THIS KNOT. TURKEY IS DOING ITS BEST
TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE. THE STEPS TAKEN UNTIL NOW
BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND THE STEPS HE WILL TAKE AT
MONTREUX SHOW THE GOODWILL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.
WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOW THE TURN OF THE U.S. TO DO ITS BEST
TO SEE TO IT THAT THE MONTREUX MEETING IS SUCCESSFUL.
WE BELIEVE THAT IN REPLYING TO THE LETTER FROM THE
CONGRESSMEN, SECRETARY VANCE COULD LET THE PUBLIC KNOW
OF ITS POLICY DECISION WITH REGARD TO THE DCA AND
THE EMBARGO. THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS
OF THE MEETING AT MONTREUX. IF THE U.S. DOES NOT
TAKE THIS POSITIVE STEP, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GREEKS
WILL BECOME EVEN MORE INTRANSIGENT IN THE MEETING
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AND THE TALKS WILL FAIL.

3. I TOLD OKCUN THAT SINCE THE MESSAGE WAS A PRIVATE
ONE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE
I WOULD NOT COMMENT BUT WOULD SIMPLY PASS IT DIRECTLY TO THE
SECRETARY.
SPIERS

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